

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



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Empowering Communities. Advocating Solutions.

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Banning Toxic Flame Retardants from Children's Products

HB 6332

AN ACT concerning toxic flame retardants in children's products.

BACKGROUND

Tris is a term for certain chlorinated flame retardant chemicals, often found in baby products and household furniture foam. Three specific chemicals often referred to collectively as Tris:

- Tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl)phosphate, or TCDPP
- Tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate, or TCEP
- Tris(2-chloro-1-methylethyl)phosphate, or TCPP

Tris refers specifically to triphosphates, a type of chlorinated organophosphorus compound used as flame retardants in common household products. These chemicals have been found in almost all treated wastewater and are common emerging contaminants according to a 2002 USGS study analyzing 139 streams across the U.S. Over time, products containing these chemicals release the TCDPP, TCEP, or TCPP toxins, which attach to dust particles in the air. **All three of these Tris chemicals are possible carcinogens and pose a public health risk, particularly to fetuses and small children.**

JUSTIFICATION

The triphosphate family of chemicals are considered chemicals of high concern due to their potential for long-range transport, persistence, toxicity, and human exposure. **Connecticut must act quickly to establish a law that strengthens the protection of children's health by banning all three Tris chemicals in products for children under age twelve!**

Banning dangerous Tris chemicals from children's products will not only protect children's health, it will provide other important benefits.

- **Tris Threatens the Environment:** Tris has been detected in sewage effluent, rivers, marine ecosystems, drinking water, sediment, and in fish throughout the world. In a 2002 USGS study analyzing 139 streams across the U.S., TCEP was one of the most frequently detected contaminants. Tris chemicals are toxic to aquatic life.
- **Tris Threatens Firefighters:** Despite being marketed as a flame retardant, TDCPP as used in foam-containing infant and children's products provides no fire safety benefit – and when it burns, it releases chlorine gas, which quickly converts to lethal hydrochloric acid in the lungs. It also releases more carbon monoxide and soot in fires than products that don't contain these chemicals.

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SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

- Beginning on October 1, 2014, no party shall manufacture, sell, or distribute children's product containing TDCPP, TDCP, TCEP or TCPP in the State of Connecticut, except for such products governed by federal motor vehicle standards contained in 49 CFR Sections 571.213 and 571.302.
- The provisions of this legislation will not apply to any individual who resells, offers for resale or distributes children's products primarily for personal, family or household purposes.
- The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall levy a civil penalty of no more than \$1,000 per day for the first violation and no more than \$2,500 per day for any subsequent violation, on any party found in violation of the new law.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Children's products should apply to any child 12 years of age or younger

CCE SUPPORTS HB 6332 – BANNING TOXIC FLAME RETARDANTS FROM CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS

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